



BY C. &amp; C. ZARLEY.

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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

FOR THE SIGNAL  
ON THE ANTICIPATED DEPARTURE OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS FOR MEXICO.

Do ye take a proud survey  
Of the plume on the warrior's brow,  
Of the youth that will speed to the battle array,  
In the glittering pomp of their martial array?

Do ye think of laurels won—  
Of the victor's pealing song,  
When the victor's plume shall be gay, and the trophy be done,  
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## Lieutenant Porter.

"The path of glory leads but to the grave."  
The chestnut (Penn.) Republican, published at the home of the family of the late Commodore Porter, a son of whom was the second victim who fell in the Mexican fight, publishes a letter from Lieut. Porter to his brother, which illustrates further how short is often the step between glory and the grave. He writes under date of April 15, one week before he was killed by the Mexicans:

"The General has been good enough to give me a nice little job, which, should I succeed, will make me a Captain. When the first gun fires I am to start—you may be sure I look for that gun—and when I write again I hope to be able to tell you I have been successful."

The Porters have all of them been men of war. Two of the sons died of the yellow fever while on government duty.

At the meeting of volunteers in Washington city, on Saturday evening, another of the sons, Lieut. Porter of the Navy, spoke briefly, and announced the news received from Mexico, of the reported disaster between Point Isabel and the camp of Gen. Taylor. He gave some touching reminiscences of his father and mother, and brother. When a boy, his father had given him a gun and he self a sword, telling them that this was all the bequest he had to make. His brother had surrendered his weapon of defense only with his life, and had just died in defense of his country. He was eager to avenge his brother's blood, which cried out from the ground. He had entered the navy when a boy, as an ordinary seaman, and now held the rank of Lieutenant in the service, and was awaiting orders from the department. The bride was upon him, and the moment it was off, he would go wherever he might be directed. Since the death of his brother he had received a letter from his mother. Her words were: "Much as I desire to see you, my dear son, come not here; go the other way, and like a man defend your country."

This was a Spartan mother, and he would revenge his brother's death or die in the attempt. This was heard with great applause, and was, by far, the most touching incident of the evening.

If there are any who can read such a description of the finest and holiest feeling of our nature, being turned into a channel of blood, without dropping a tear upon the paragraph, they must be possessed of sterner nerves than we desire to boast.

—Chicago Democrat.

DEATH OF MAHOMET.—In Medina, feeling that his death was fast approaching, he ascended the pulpit from which he addressed himself to the surrounding crowd: "Oh! ye faithful, if any one of you have reason to complain that I have ill-treated him by blows, here is my body, let him return them; if I have wounded the reputation of any one, I am ready to restore it on the spot." A man here interrupted him, and demanded payment of a debt amounting to three drachms. Mahomet paid him, and said: "It is more easy to suffer shame in this world than in the other." This task finished, he betook himself to his bed, which he never more quitted. The evening before his death he would have dictated a new chapter of a Koran; but the friends who stood round him would not allow it, thinking that his weakened mind might perplex his followers with some strange doctrine. It was better, if they had permitted him: for as the traveler, when he gains the summit of a hill, looks back, and perceives not only the road by which he has come, but also his position in, and relation to the surrounding country, so Mahomet, at that critical moment set free from the influence of prejudice or passion, may have seen more clearly how far his own conduct harmonized with that plan which his conscience pointed out as the plan of the Creator. Happily if he had been permitted to speak, he might have modified much and suppressed some of the doctrines which have since then, so troubled and perplexed the world. But they would not let him speak, so the night passed in weeping and watching; and when the morning dawned there was a sound of lamentation and the minaret and house top, whilst couriers went on swift-footed camels to proclaim amongst the tribes of the desert that their law giver was dead.

—The Student.

There is a mountain, at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, where, on the 21st of June, the sun does not go down at all. Travelers go up there to see it. A steamerboat goes from Stockholm for the purpose of carrying those who are curious to witness this phenomenon. It only occurs one night. The sun goes down to the horizon, you can see the whole face of it, and in five minutes it begins to rise.

AN EXPERIMENTAL TONIC.—You've had five gin toddies already this morning, said a bar-keeper yesterday to one of his hard customers, who had called for the sixth.

Have it inquired the chap.

Yes, you have. Don't you think another will get you drunk?

Well, I don't know, make me one and we'll see. It's always best to be trying experiments.

THE HALLS OF THE MONTEZUMAS.—Montezuma II. ascended the Mexican throne A. D. 1502, at the age of twenty-three, before Mexico had been discovered by Europeans. He died 30th June 1525, in the forty-second year of his age, of wounds inflicted by the Spanish discoverers, whom he had invited to his royal palace. Historians agree in admiring his character.

On ascending the throne, not content with the spacious residence of his father, he erected another, much more magnificent, fronting on the plaza mayor of the present city of Mexico. So vast was this great structure, that, as one of the historians informs us, the space covered by its terraced roof might have afforded room for thirty knights to run their courses in a regular tourney. His father's palace, although not so high, was so extensive that the visitors were too much fatigued in wandering through the apartments, ever to see the whole of it. The palace was built of red stone, ornamented with marble; the arms of the Montezuma family (an eagle bearing a tiger in his talons) being sculptured over the main entrance. Crystal fountains, led by the great reservoirs on the neighboring hills, played in the vast halls and gardens, and supplied water to hundreds of marble baths in the interior of the palace. Crowds of nobles and tributary chieftains were continually snatching through the halls, or loitering away their hours in attendance on the Court. Rich carving in wood adorned the ceilings, beautiful mats of palm leaf covered the floors. The walls were hung with cotton richly stained, the skins of wild animals, or gorgeous draperies of feather work wrought in imitation of birds, insects and flowers, in glowing radiance of colors. Clouds of incense from golden censers diffused intoxicating odors through splendid apartments occupied by the hundred and eighty wives and five hundred slaves of Montezuma.

He encouraged science and learning, and public schools were established throughout the greater part of his empire. The city of Mexico in his day numbered twice as many inhabitants as at present, and one thousand men were daily employed in watering and sweeping its streets, keeping them so clean that a man might traverse the whole city with little danger of soiling his feet or his hands. A careful police guarded the city. Extensive arsenals, granaries, warehouses, an aviary for the most beautiful birds, menageries, houses for reptiles and serpents, a collection of human monsters, fish ponds built of marble, and museums and public libraries, all on the most extensive scale, added their attraction to the great city of the Aztecs. Gorgeous temples—in which human victims were sacrificed, and their blood baked in bread, or their bodies dressed for food to be devoured by the people at religious festivals—reared their pyramidal altars far above the highest edifices. Thousands of their brother men were thus sacrificed annually. The temple Maxtli, their war god, was so constructed that its great alarm gong, sounding to battle, roused the valley for three leagues around, and called three hundred thousand armed Aztecs to the immediate relief of their monarch. So vast was the collection of birds of prey, in a building devoted to them, that 500 turkeys, the cheapest meat in Mexico, were allowed for their consumption daily. Such were the "Halls of the Montezumas."

The summer residence of the monarch, on the hill of Chapultepec, overlooking the city, was surrounded by gardens of several miles in extent, and here were preserved until the middle of the last century, two statues of the Emperor, and his father. The great cypress trees, under which the Aztec sovereign and his associates once held their moonlight revels, still shade the royal gardens. Some of them fifty feet in circumference, are several thousand years old, but are yet as green as in the days of Montezuma, whose ashes, or those of his ancestors, render sacred in the eyes of the native Mexicans, the hills of Chapultepec. Natural decay and a waning population now mark the seat of power of the great Montezumas.

A FAMILY OF SOLDIERS.—The Boston Traveller says that a friend informs the editor that an ancestor of his wife's, on the island of Martinique, was the father of 30 sons by one wife, and that during the attack on the island by the English, he was the Col. of a regiment of volunteer militia, in the front rank of which the whole thirty were stationed.

Forty Years Ago.—Forty years ago, literature ment learning and was supported by common sense. Refined nonsense had no advocates, and was pretty generally kicked out of doors.

Forty years ago, there were but few merchants in the country, or insolvent debtors, and they rarely imprisoned for debt.

Forty years ago, young ladies of the first respectability learned music—but in music of the spinning wheel, and learned the necessary steps of dancing in following it. Their forte piano was a loom, their parol a broom, and their novels a Bible.

Forty years ago, young gentlemen food corn chopped wood at the door, and went

## to school in the winter to learn reading writing and arithmetic.

Forty years ago, there were no such things as balls in the summer, and few in the winter except snow balls.

Forty years ago, if a mechanic proposed to do your work, you might depend on his word; it would be done.

Forty years ago, when a mechanic finished his work he was paid for it.

Forty years ago, printers were paid and were therefore enabled to pay their debts.

—What a falling off!

Education.—Every boy should have his head, his heart, and his hand educated. Let this truth never be forgotten. By the proper education of the head he will be taught what is good and what is evil, what is wise and what is foolish, what is right and what is wrong. By the proper education of the heart, he will be taught to love what is good, wise and right, and to hate what is evil, foolish and wrong; and by proper education of the hand, he will be enabled to supply his wants, to add to his comfort, and to assist those around him. The highest objects of good education are to reverence and obey God, and to love and serve mankind—every thing that helps us in attaining these objects is of great value, and every thing that hinders us is comparatively worthless. When wisdom reigns in the head, and love in the heart, the head is ever ready to do good, order and peace smile around, and sin and sorrow are almost unknown.

—Blackwell.

MEXICO.—Some account, both geographical and statistical of the Mexican Republic may be of interest at this time. Our relations with that country are likely to render a preliminary knowledge of its condition & geography especially useful.

The natural features of Mexico are outlined with great boldness. As the peninsula between the Gulf and the Pacific narrows towards the isthmus the land rises higher into mountains and mountain elevation, all bearing traces of volcanic origin. The city of Mexico stands 7,400 miles above the level of the Gulf, although it seems to be in a valley; for it is encircled by mountains and is situated in a vast plain of alluvial formation.

The territory of the republic extends from latitude 15 south to 42 degrees north in point of position no country is more advantageously situated—for it commands both oceans looking towards Europe and Asia; it is connected by the Gulf and Mississippi with every part of North America and to the southern portion of the continent, it has every facility of approach on either coast. The route of commerce which is one day to unite the Atlantic and Pacific, and to bring Europe and the East into approximation; which is to leave Cape Horn to its storms and concentrate the trade of the world in central America—must pass thro' the territory of the Mexican Republic.

The configuration of the country gives to Mexico almost every variety of climate—tropical on the coast—temperate on elevated table lands—chilled with perpetual snow on the mountain summits. The qualities of its soil are equally various. It produces the growth of numerous latitudes, and such is the fertility of its valleys that with industry and skillful cultivation it would be made the richest country in the world. Those regions which are made barren by rugged mountains, more than compensate for their agricultural poverty, by the gold and silver embedded in their bosom.

The population of Mexico is supposed to range from 8 to 9,000,000. Of these more than two fifths are of the Indian race. Those of our Santa Fe traders who have gone into the interior towards the city of Mexico, speak of large and populous towns with fine edifices, along the route. Chihuahua, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi—inhabitants, are found near the mining districts or in the rich valleys of the interior. For years past the northern frontier has been subject to the incursions of the Comanches, who, sweeping suddenly down on swift horses, devastate the country, & then with their plunder make a speedy retreat. The unwelcome character of the Mexicans is shown by the impunity with which these invaders carry on their forays—outrages which they dare not attempt on the Texan settlements since the severe lessons they received from the Texan rifles. After passing the frontier of the northern departments the Mexican country presents an aspect of good cultivation. Farms, plantations, villages and towns are seen with all the usual accompaniments of a rural life in a well peopled district.

To the city of Mexico the approach is ascending from every direction. That capital stands crowning as it were, the magnificent regions of which it is the culminating point. It is nearly midway between Vera Cruz on the Gulf and Acapulco on the Pacific. Travelers speak in glowing terms of its splendid and imposing aspect. Mexico is one of the finest cities ever built by Europeans in either hemisphere, says Humboldt, with the exception of Paris, Berlin, Philadelphia, Washington, Paris and some of the quarters of Westminster.

The imposing appearance of this Spanish built city seems to have made a strong impression on Humboldt; for he recurs to it more than once. From a singular coincidence of circumstances," he says, "I have seen successively, within a very short time, Lima, Mexico, Philadelphia, Washington, Paris, Rome, Naples, and the largest cities of Germany. By comparing together impressions which follow in rapid successions, we are enabled to rectify any opinion which we may have adopted. Notwithstanding such unavoidable comparisons, which several, one would think, must have proved disadvantageous to Mexico, it has left a recollection of grandeur which I principally attribute to the majestic character of its situation and to the surrounding scenery."

—Baltimore.

Situation of Matamoros.—As we were upon the subject, we will state a few facts, which we gather from intelligent American merchant, who had resided at Matamoros for eight years. The distance from the Nueces to the Del Norte is about seventy five miles. On the banks of both these rivers is a strip of good land, extending fifteen or twenty miles each way. The rest is a worthless barren. Matamoros is healthy—the yellow fever never appearing there more than in New York—and so it is through the interior of Mexico.

The Del Norte has many bars, so that only vessels of very light draft of water can go up to Matamoros. Above it, it is navigated by scows for a hundred miles. The distance from Matamoros to the Gulf is twenty-six miles, and to Point Isabel something more. The Point is a poor place to land merchandise, as a vessel cannot come within a mile of the shore. The distance to the city of Mexico is from nine hundred to a thousand miles. A small mail is transported the whole distance on horseback, at the rate of sixty miles a day, and occupies sixteen days. From Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico is 400 miles, over an excellent macadamized road, which was built by the Spanish government long ago, and is now in good repair. Besides this there are no made roads in Mexico, except in the immediate neighborhood of the large towns. Wagons, and even coaches, pass from Matamoros Mexico, over a traveled road passing through all varieties of country, and with great labor.

—Journal of Commerce.

MEXICAN GAS.—The following is an extract from a dispatch addressed to President Paredes by Gen. Magia, before the battles on the Rio Grande. Wonder where Magia, is about these times.

"In order to act with judgment, free from the excitement, or rather the patriotic fire within me at the sight of the star-spangled banner floating over the waters of the Rio Grande, I allowed the first moments to pass without action. Calmness having resumed its seat, I reflected that the river was too broad to admit of the enemy's being reached by our swords and bayonets unquestionably superior to his, and that a cannonade would only produce a useless shedding of blood, besides damaging the city, whose buildings are not very strong. I therefore resolved on awaiting the arrival of Gen. Ampudia, when, with our united forces we might give a decisive blow with the certainty that not a single American would escape. I have taken all due precautions in strengthening the works here, and raising fortifications so as to cover the whole line. In the meanwhile I have operated against the morale of the enemy, introducing discord between the two generals commanding, inspiring them mutually with disgust for each other. Worth the only man of talent among them, has resigned, and if he leaves, as I believe he will, Taylor alone remains in command, and as for him it would be no compliment to our country to compare him with the most successful Mexican General. I have also encouraged desertion among the American troops, and from the 25th ultimo no fewer than 28 troops, and four slaves have passed over to us. In short the triumph of the Mexican arms is past all doubt, either with the force under my command. Should they pass the river, their doom is open."

How Philosophers are made.—"About a hundred years ago, there lived in Boston a tallow chandler. He was too ignorant to give, and too poor to pay for his children's instruction, but he was a wise and honest man, and there was only one book upon whose precepts he relied, as being able to instruct his children how to live prosperously in this world, as well as to prepare for another. We are told that he daily repeated to them, this proverb: 'Sow thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings.' In the course of time this tallow-chandler died and was buried, but the good seed had fallen upon good ground. One of his little boys, obeyed his father's instruction; he was diligent in his business, and he did stand before kings, the first representative of his native land. He lived as a philosopher, to snatch the lightning from heaven."

As a statesman, to wrest the scepter from tyrants. And when he died he confessed that it was the moral teachings of his father, added to the little learning he picked up in a town school in Boston, to which he owed his success, his happiness and his reputation. He did what he could to testify how sensible he was of these obligations. He bequeathed liberally to his native city, the means of inducing the young to improve their advantages, and to enable the industrious to succeed in their callings. And he erected a monument over his father to tell his virtues to another age. But the glory of the father was in the child. His son's character was his noblest monument. The examples that son set, of industry, perseverance and economy, have excited and are exciting many to imitate them. And thousands, yet unborn, may owe their success and happiness to the manner, in which a text was enforced, by a tallow chandler, upon Benjamin Franklin."

An eastern paper says:—The greatest case of love is that of a youth in Kentucky, who got into a hollow tree, where he lived a whole week, peeping through a knot-hole at his lady-love, as she sat sewing beadskin petticoats at her window.

## PRIVATEERING.—We learn that arrangements have been made by some American merchants at Havana, to take out Mexican letters of marque in order to prey upon American commerce. The Consul at Havana has transmitted the names of at least two to our government. It is certain, however, that whoever is found on board these privateers, not a genuine Mexican citizen, will be suspended as pirates at the yard arms of our national vessels—and those in the this country who are engaged in fitting them out will be hung as traitors.

—Delta.

DARADFUL MURDER. A correspondent of the Albany Atlas writes from Cooperstown, Otsego Co. May 12, as follows: "A most daring and horrid murder was committed in the town of Milford (near Colliersville), in this country, on Saturday the 8th inst, which filled the entire community with terror and gloom. It appears from what information I can derive, that a single-stocking bee was held at the premises of a Mr. Shuttler's at which many neighbors were in attendance, and several of them became intoxicated. A scene of riot ensued, as the natural consequence. A man named Nathan Tiffany came to the scene, and was immediately attacked by a person named Levi Clearwater. Mr. T. seeing him intoxicated retreated, but was followed by Clearwater, who fatally stabbed him in the bowels with a pocket knife. Mr. Tiffany left for home (a distance of about twenty rods) holding his entrails in his hands, which had been exposed by the stab he had received. Clearwater followed him to his house, determining to "finish him" on the spot, but was beaten from the house by Mrs. T. with the tongue. This was between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. Clearwater immediately fled, but was arrested the next day at Jacksonborough, in the town of Maryland taken back to Milford, had his examination on Monday, and was committed to jail to await his trial for murder. Mr. T. lingered till Sunday, when death came to his relief. I visited the prison today, saw the prisoner, and conversed with him about the affair during which, tears were seen trickling down his cheeks. He gave an undisguised history of the bloody deed, and said had it not been for liquor, he should never have been caught in prison. He is 23 years of age, and has been addicted to intemperance for several years."

What a warning to young men this should be, to never taste of the poisonous cup, which has caused many a tear to flow and many a kind heart to throb with anguish. It should rest deeply on the minds of voters, who must determine the fate of "king alcohol."

THE CHOLERA.—This destructive scourge of humanity seems once more on its way to ravage the continent of Europe, originating, as before, in the heart of Asia, Northern Persia being the first quarter in which it was noticed; it is approaching the confines of Europe. The chief cities of Persia already counts by thousands their dead, who have fallen victims to Asiatic cholera. The line of route taken by its appears to be almost due west, for it attacked, in singular succession, the cities of Bokara, Herat, Meshed, Teheran and Isphahan, while recent accounts from Odessa state that two or three cases of Asiatic cholera had been observed at Tiflis. Should it continue to advance at its present rate it may be looked for in a very short time. Indeed, it is stated from Riga that it has already broken out at Oranberg and Kasan, and that several persons at St. Petersburg have been attacked by the influenza a disease that usually precedes the cholera; proper precautionary measures ought, therefore, to be taken to check the progress of the cholera, in due time, for arriving as it will in the middle of the summer, the season most favorable for its development and propagation, the consequence in the densely crowded towns and cities of the continent will be awful.

—German Paper.

Education is a better safeguard for liberty than a standing army.